

EXHIBIT A

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

CAROLINE PATTON GRIFFIN,	:	
Individually and as Surviving Spouse	:	
and Executor of the Estate of LEE	:	
DIXON GRIFFIN, JR.,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	Civil Action File No.:
	:	
v.	:	1:23-cv-03107-TWT
	:	
TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION,	:	
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH	:	
AMERICA, INC.; TOYOTA MOTOR	:	
SALES, U.S.A., INC.; TOYOTA	:	
MOTOR ENGINEERING &	:	
MANUFACTURING NORTH	:	
AMERICA, INC.; TOYOTA MOTOR	:	
MANUFACTURING, TEXAS, INC.;	:	
and JIM ELLIS AUTOMOTIVE	:	
HOLDINGS, INC.,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Plaintiff filed this action against the Toyota Defendants, including but not limited to Toyota Motor Corporation (“TMC”), Toyota Motor North America, Inc. (“TMNA”), Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. (“TMS”), Inc., Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc. (“TEMA”), and Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, Inc. (“TMMTX”);

WHEREAS, the documents identified as "Confidential" or "Subject to Protective Order" are claimed by the Toyota Defendants to contain information that includes proprietary interests, trade secrets, or confidential commercial information, in addition to information that provides the Toyota Defendants a competitive advantage that will be irretrievably lost if the information is disclosed outside of this litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Toyota Defendants desire to preserve the confidentiality of such information and prevent the information from being acquired by their competitors, or anyone outside of this litigation.

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED and requested that the Court enter the following Stipulated Protective Order for the "Confidential" documents only.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The term "Confidential Information" as used in this Stipulated Protective Order shall refer to those documents designated as "Confidential" or "Subject to Protective Order" as described below, and to the substance of any information obtained from such documents that are claimed by the Toyota Defendants to contain proprietary interests, trade secrets, or confidential commercial information, in addition to information that provides the Defendants a

competitive advantage that will be irretrievably lost if the information is acquired by competitors of the Toyota Defendants.

2. “Confidential Information” has been designated by:

- (a) Typing, stamping, or imprinting upon the document the following words: “CONFIDENTIAL” or “SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER;” and
- (b) Applying such in a manner so as not to obscure any information contained therein.

3. All information and documents designated as “Confidential” shall be accorded confidential status until such time as determined otherwise pursuant to the following provisions of the Stipulated Protective Order.

4. Inadvertent or unintentional production of documents or information containing "Confidential Information" that should have been designated "Confidential" or "Produced Pursuant to Protective Order" shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a party's claims of confidentiality and will continue to be deemed "Confidential Information" upon notice to all parties receiving such inadvertent or unintentional production.

5. Any notes, lists, memoranda, indices, compilations electronically stored information, reports, records, and documents prepared or based on an

examination of “Confidential Information” and any summaries of “Confidential Information,” which quote from, identify, or refer to the “Confidential Information” with such specificity that the “Confidential Information” can be identified, or by reasonable logical extension can be identified, shall be accorded the same status of confidentiality as the underlying “Confidential Information” from which they are made, and shall be subject to all of the terms of the Stipulated Protective Order.

6. All “Confidential Information” shall be used only for this litigation, shall not be used for any business, commercial, or competitive purposes, may be disclosed only to the following individuals or entities, and shall not be revealed, discussed, or disclosed in any manner or in any form, to any person, entity, or judicial tribunal other than:

- (a) The Court and Court personnel including court reporters retained by the parties;
- (b) Counsel named as representing the parties;
- (c) An employee of counsel named as representing the parties to whom it is necessary that the material be shown for purposes of litigation;
- (d) Officers, directors, or employees of a party who have the need to know such information for purposes of this litigation;

- (e) Experts or professional advisors and persons regularly employed in their offices retained by a party to assist in the prosecution or defense of this action, but only to the extent necessary for such person to perform their assigned tasks in connection with this action; and
- (f) Attorneys representing parties, and the experts and consultants retained by them, in other cases against any of the Toyota Defendants involving claims of carbon monoxide poisoning resulting in injury or death allegedly resulting from the driver of a Toyota, Lexus, or Scion vehicle equipped with a Smart Key System allegedly leaving the vehicle with the engine running in an enclosed space attached to a residence.

7. “Confidential Information” shall not be shown or disclosed to persons described in paragraphs 6(b), 6(c), 6(d), 6(e) and 6(f) until such persons shall be shown this Stipulated Protective Order and signs and dates a written agreement to be bound by the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, which agreement shall be identical to that set forth in Appendix “A” of this Stipulated Protective Order.

8. The original and copies of the signed Appendix “A” agreement(s) referenced in Paragraph 7 above, shall be maintained in the possession, custody and control of counsel for each party receiving “Confidential Information.” The

Toyota Defendants may seek a Court Order requiring disclosure of such signed copies to them.

9. All persons who receive “Confidential Information” and/or material or information accorded the status of confidentiality in this action shall maintain the confidentiality of such material and information in accordance with the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order.

10. Copies of discovery responses and documents containing “Confidential Information” shall not be filed with the Court, except in accordance with Paragraph 11.

11. In the event that any document, deposition testimony, deposition exhibit, interrogatory, answer thereto, exhibit or attachment to an interrogatory or answer, request for production, response thereto, exhibit to a request for production or response, request for admission or response thereto, exhibit to a request for admission or response, motion, memorandum, affidavit, brief, or any other submission by any party is filed with the Court which includes, attaches, incorporates, or quotes “Confidential Information,” such filings shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and other appropriate containers endorsed to the effect that they are subject to this Stipulated Protective Order by reason of containing

“Confidential Information” and shall be maintained under seal and not disclosed, except to the Court, and except upon further Order of this Court.

12. To the extent that any “Confidential Information” is used in the taking of depositions, such “Confidential Information” shall remain subject to the provisions of this Stipulated Protective Order. At the time any “Confidential Information” is used in any deposition, counsel for the parties must inform the reporter of this Stipulated Protective Order. The reporter shall operate in a manner consistent with this Stipulated Protective Order and shall separately label the confidential portions of the deposition transcript, including documents and other exhibits containing Confidential Information. **The Confidential Information shall be bound separately and counsel for the Defendant producing the “Confidential Information” shall retain custody of that portion of the original transcript containing Confidential Information and/or “Confidential” documents. Those pages in any transcript referring to Confidential Information shall include a stamp identifying all such pages as "Confidential" and/or “Subject to Protective Order.”**

13. The Toyota Defendants may designate depositions or other testimony concerning the documents and the information contained therein as “Confidential Information” by:

- (a) Stating orally on the record the day the testimony is given that the information is expected to be “Confidential;” or,
- (b) Sending written notice designating those portions of the deposition or other testimony to be treated as "Confidential," within 30 days after receipt of the deposition transcript.

The court reporter shall operate in a manner consistent with this Stipulated Protective Order if he or she receives any confidential designations from the Toyota Defendants as described in subparagraphs (a) or (b) above, and shall then prepare an original transcript segregating the confidential portions of the deposition, including documents and other exhibits containing "Confidential Information." **Counsel for the Toyota Defendant producing the “Confidential Information” shall retain custody of that portion of the original transcript containing Confidential Information.”**

14. Any party may apply to the Court for the imposition of further limitations upon the disclosure of specific information if such party deems further limitations are required. Any party may apply to the Court for relief from limitations if such party deems such relief is required.

15. Nothing in this Stipulated Protective Order shall prevent any disclosure if the party designating the information as “Confidential” consents to

such disclosure.

16. The execution of this Stipulated Protective Order shall not in any way detract from the right of a party to object to the production of discovery materials on grounds other than confidentiality.

17. Failure by a party to challenge the confidentiality of any document or information at the time of receipt thereof shall not preclude a subsequent challenge thereto. In the event a party to this litigation disagrees with the designation of any information as “Confidential,” the parties shall attempt to dispose of such dispute in good faith on an informal basis. If the disagreement cannot be resolved in this fashion, the party contesting the confidentiality of the material may, by motion, with the “Confidential Information” submitted under seal setting forth with specificity the items challenged, seek an Order freeing the material in question from the designation as “Confidential Information.” The party asserting that documents or other tangible litigation materials constitute “Confidential Information” shall bear the burden of proof that the criteria of this Stipulated Protective Order apply. Any information as to which such motion is made shall remain “Confidential Information” under the provisions of this Stipulated Protective Order until further Order of the Court.

18. Nothing contained in this Stipulated Protective Order shall prevent a party to this action from using its own Confidential Information and material in any way that it sees fit, or from revealing its own Confidential Information and material to whomever it chooses, without prior consent of any person or of the Court. In addition, the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order do not preclude the Toyota Defendants from providing confidential and/or protected information and documents to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), either voluntarily or in connection with Toyota's obligations under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 (Safety Act), 49 U.S.C. § 30101, et seq.

19. After the conclusion of this litigation as to all parties, all "Confidential Information," all copies thereof, and all documents that contain or reflect "Confidential Information," including, but not limited to any notes prepared by the parties receiving the "Confidential Information," counsel for such parties, or such parties' experts, shall be returned to counsel for the producing Defendants and all electronic copies will be destroyed and deleted from any computers, hard drives, servers, or cloud storage. The party given the "Confidential Information" will certify in writing that there is compliance with this paragraph. All "Confidential Information" shall remain subject to the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order,

and the parties consent to the continuation of jurisdiction and venue of this Court to resolve any disputes arising from the treatment or disposition of “Confidential Information” after conclusion of this litigation.

20. This Stipulated Protective Order shall not be abrogated, modified, amended, or enlarged except by agreement of the parties or by noticed motion, with notice given to each of the parties.

21. Nothing contained herein shall restrict the presentation of any evidence, including “Confidential Information,” to a jury or the Court during a trial or other hearing of this action. However, such presentation shall not constitute a waiver of any restrictions provided for in this Stipulated Protective Order and the parties agree to take reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality of any “confidential information” at any hearing or upon trial of this matter in such a manner and until such time as the Court may direct, and/or as the parties may otherwise agree. Before any such presentation of “Confidential Information,” the Toyota Defendants shall be provided with appropriate notice so that the Toyota Defendants may have the opportunity to lodge appropriate objections or seek the Court’s direction to prevent disclosure of the “Confidential Information.”

Respectfully submitted this ____ day of August, 2023.

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The Court, after reading the Stipulated Protective Order submitted by the parties, hereby approves of and enters this Stipulated Protective Order.

SO ORDERED this the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Hon. Thomas W. Thrash, Jr.
U.S. District Court, Northern District of GA

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

CAROLINE PATTON GRIFFIN,
Individually and as Surviving Spouse
and Executor of the Estate of LEE
DIXON GRIFFIN, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION,
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH
AMERICA, INC.; TOYOTA MOTOR
SALES, U.S.A., INC.; TOYOTA
MOTOR ENGINEERING &
MANUFACTURING NORTH
AMERICA, INC.; TOYOTA MOTOR
MANUFACTURING, TEXAS, INC.;
and JIM ELLIS AUTOMOTIVE
HOLDINGS, INC.,

Defendants.

Civil Action File No.:

1:23-cv-03107-TWT

APPENDIX A TO STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

I, _____,
certify that I have read the Stipulated Protective Order dated _____,
entered in the above-captioned action and further certify that I fully understand the
procedural and substantive requirements of that Stipulated Protective Order, a copy
of which is attached hereto. Before reviewing or receiving access to any
document, material, information and/or discovery subject to the protection of that

Stipulated Protective Order and as a condition for such review and/or access, I understand and agree that I am personally bound by and subject to all of the terms and provisions of the Stipulated Protective Order. I subject myself to the jurisdiction and venue of said Court for purposes of enforcement of the Stipulated Protective Order.

(signature)

(print name)

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this ____ day of _____, 202__.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:
